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THE MAGIC LANTERN GAZETTE

Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada ©

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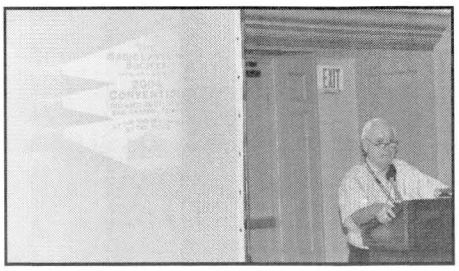
Convention Highlights

By Ralph Shape

The eleventh convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada included some highlights that warrant mention. First was the site of the convention, the historic Menger Hotel. Built originally in 1859, the Menger has been host to famous names throughout its history including General Sherman, Teddy Roosevelt, Gutzon Borglum, Oscar Wilde, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and William O. Henry.

The hotels original lobby, the Victorian Lobby, is three stories tall with eight massive columns and a leaded glass skylight. The Colonial Room Restaurant has been the scene of elaborate balls and parties. Presidents Grant and McKinley, General Robert E. Lee, and actress Sarah Bernhardt have all dined there, as have Homer and Betty Peabody. The courtyard garden was famous for the alligators that lived in a small pool. For our convention we had use of the Grant Room for our hospitality, the Cavalier Room for the market, and the Lee Room for storage and auction preview. All programs were presented in the Ball Room.

Immediately adjacent to the hotel stands the Alamo. The ability to stroll the grounds and visit the buildings was a golden opportunity to see history. The Alamo occupies a significant place in Texas history. Because of the sacrifices made there it is considered hallowed ground. The care and maintenance is entrusted to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. To remember our convention in San Antonio Jack Judson, with great difficulty, obtained permits from several agencies, brought a panorama photographer to town, and the entire group was seated on benches in front of the Alamo for pictures. The finished product is spectacular.



Jack Judson greets attendees

Another highlight was the Saturday night banquet held in a private room of the Casa Rio restaurant overlooking the Riverwalk. While we dined on what seemed like a ten course dinner, a strolling Mariachi band provided entertainment lively enough to get several members onto the dance floor.

Most would agree that the outstanding event of the convention was, following a short 20 minute bus ride, the visit to the Magic Lantern Castle Museum. Our gracious host, Jack Judson, greeted everyone as guests, offered tours, answered questions, and gave demonstrations, all while hostess Lindy was overseeing the buffet line that offered dinner treats. The lantern displays were overwhelming and all displays were done to the highest museum standards.

The Society's business meeting was a spirited discussion about the future of the Society. With input from all present, the membership voted to open a new class of membership. Students will be welcomed with a $5 membership fee. It was suggested to spend some money upgrading the web site. An academic symposium will be held in the future at the Castle. More exposure through the use of flyers was discussed.

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- President's Message
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- Auction Results
- Business Meeting Minutes
- Bits and Pieces

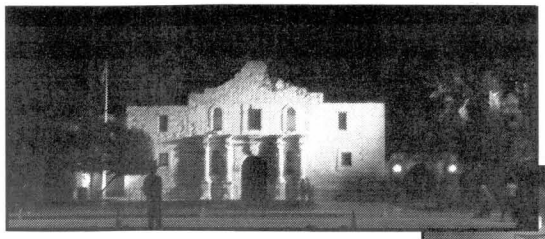
All comments about the convention were positive. The programs were informative, entertaining and educational. All wish that the next two years go by quickly so we can meet and do it again.

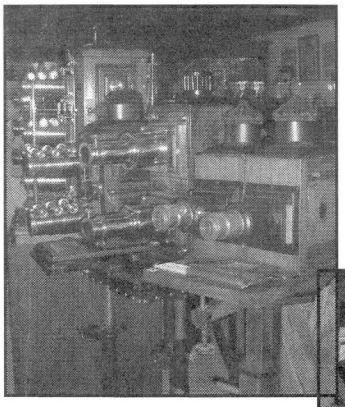
Thanks to host and hostess, Jack and Lindy Judson, for providing such a great time.

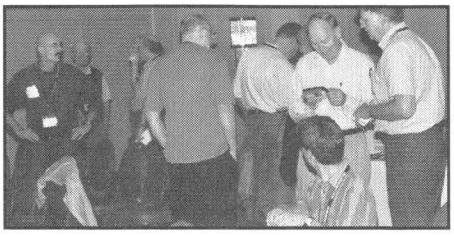
From the Editors

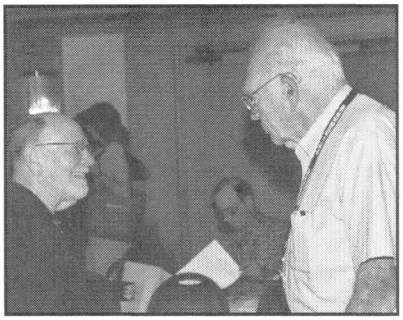
By Bob Hall

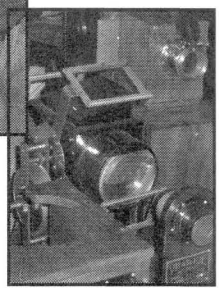
This issue is a review of the Convention held in San Antonio on Halloween weekend. We hope those of you who did not attend can get a flavor of the convention, learn something from the reviews of the programs, and be inspired to attend the next one in 2006. For those of you fortunate enough to attend, enjoy the pictures and the happy memories we hope this issue invokes.











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Correspondence should be addressed to:

Bob and Sue Hall
3321 114th Street
Gig Harbor, WA 98332
Hm: 253-851-8566
email: rbtdhall@aol.com

Officers

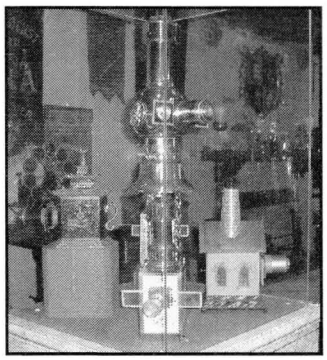
President Sharon Koch
Vice President Larry Rakow
Secretary/Treasurer Dick Moore

Membership

One Years Dues
Regular member $25
Students $5
Institutional Member $25
Commercial Member $25

Convention Program

San Antonio October 29-31, 2004

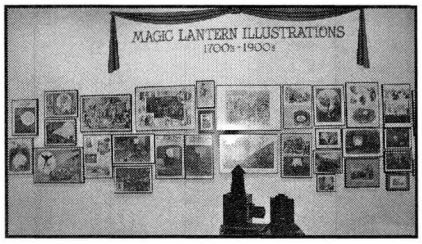


Thursday, October 28

5-7pm	Hospitality (Grant Room)

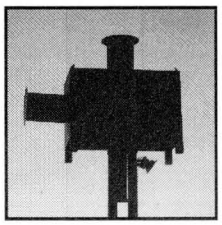
Friday, October 29

8:30 am	Registration
9:00 am	Greetings (Ballroom C)
9:30 am	"How many American Magic Lantern Shows in 1895?" - Debbie Borton
10:00am	Coffee Break/ Market open
10:30am	"Alaska Through the Lantern" - Dick Wood
11:00am	"A Short History of Lighting" - Karl Link
12:00am	Group picture at the Alamo Lunch
2:00 pm	"American Foreign Missions, Missionary Hymns and Magic Lantern Slides, 1880-1910" - Cheryl Boots
2:30 pm	"Continuing Saga of Puck and his Pig" - Dick Moore
3:00 pm	Coffee Break / Market open
6:15 pm	Bus departs for Magic Lantern Castle / Returns to hotel at 10:30



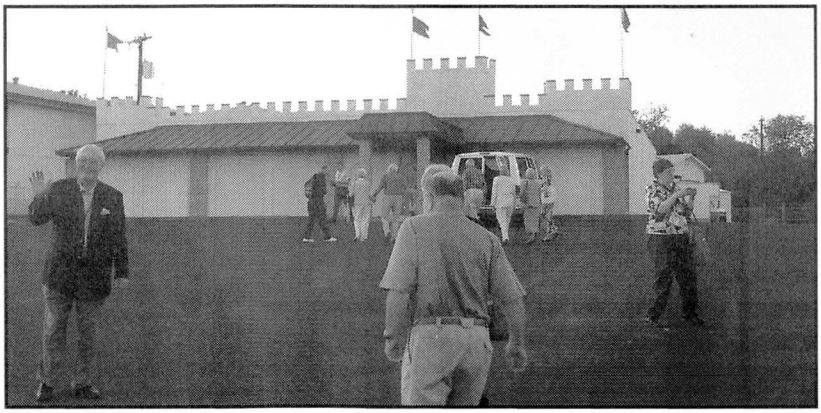
Saturday, October 30

9:00 am	"Preview of Joseph Boggs Beale Magnum Opus" - Terry Borton
9:30 am	"The Mysterious Spiral- The Untold Story of the Brown-Urban-Joy Spirograph" - Erkki Huhtamo
10:00am	Coffee Break/ Market Open
10:30am	"The Great Johnstown Flood of 1889" - Larry Rakow
11:30am	"The Music in the Shows of AMLT" - Nancy Stewart
12:00	Lunch
2:00pm	"Collecting Magic Lanterns in the Golden Age 1960-1980" - Kentwood Wells
2:30 pm	"Lewis & Clark's Corps of Discovery from a Different Perspective" - Sharon and Mike Koch
3:00 pm	Coffee Break / Market Open
3:30pm	"The Victorian Halloween Show" - Terry & Debbie Borton, Nancy Stewart
4:30pm	Market Open / Auction Turn-in
6:00 pm	Dinner at Casa Rio Restaurant



Sunday, October 31

8:00 am	Auction Preview
9:00 am	Business Meeting
10:30am	Auction



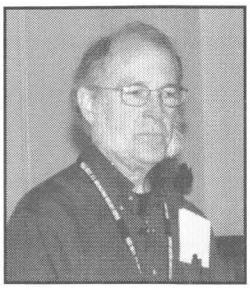
"The Mysterious Spiral - The Untold Story of the Brown-Urban-Joy Spirograph" - Erkki Huhtamo

Reviewed by Steve Barnes

Erkki's presentation was about a little known device that fits between magic lanterns and motion pictures. It started with a video of his unit from in it's carrying case, to assembly, to how it works. The Spirograph is basically a metal disc eight to ten inches in diameter, with multiple rows of micro photos transferred onto it.

He explained what little is known about these rare machines from it's invention in 1905 by Theodore Brown, through limited production by the Urban institute in early 1920, to it's end with Spira Co. about 1928. It was advertised to be used for things as varied as medical therapy, sales presentations, religious, home, educational, training, etc. The item was portable so could be taken anywhere even into a farmer's field. One model even had its illuminate powered by batteries. The unit could either be seen as a peep show (one person at a time) or projected for group use. It was never intended to compete with the motion picture but to complement that type of media for smaller groups with about 1300 pictures per disc, and run for one and a half minutes, if run straight through. It could also be stopped at any point and even run backwards, making it the first interactive moving pictures.

Though never sold, about 15 were produced as samples. Its demise may have been aided by the fact that to show a complete movie it would take many discs and much disc changing. Erkki would like to receive information from anyone who is familiar with Spirographs.



"Preview of Joseph Boggs Beale Magnum Opus" - Terry Borton

Reviewed by Diane Yates

Terry Borton presented a 'sneak preview' of his long-in-the-making forthcoming book about America's foremost magic lantern illustrator, Joseph Boggs Beale. Although Beale created about 2100 slides, almost single handedly producing much of what American audiences saw from the 1880's through 1908, when movies sounded the death knell of lantern shows, he has slid into obscurity.

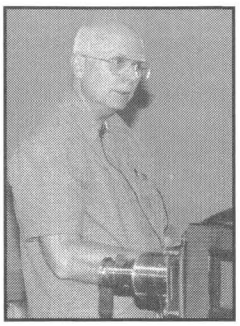
Although focusing on Beale, in the book Borton will also explore two other aspects of the magic lantern story: a study of how the lanternists influenced the cinema by employing many of the techniques of cinematography, and how people responded to the shows then and now.

The talk whetted ones appetite for the book and we can only say 'Press on, Terry, and be sure to let us know when we can order a copy.'

"Alaska Through the Lantern" - Dick Wood

Reviewed by Dorothy Bromage

When your grandfather is the famous Joe Wood, former pitcher for the Boston Red Sox, you naturally have a strong interest in baseball cards. Through unavoidable extensions from there, Dick Wood of Juneau, Alaska came to a specialty in all formats of early photography, which includes the magic lantern field. Dick's slide presentation featured Indians, (mostly the Tlingit tribe of the Juneau area), some in their potlatch finery, Indian chiefs, totem poles, canoes, an Indian graveyard and a summer fish camp. The Klondike Gold Rush was duly documented in magic lantern fashion. Dick showed slides of trains that brought the gold seekers, as well as stern-wheelers on the Yukon River. The end of the gold rush came quickly, and, unfortunately for the Indians, diseases such as tuberculosis had been brought in with disastrous consequences.



"Hotel Cats and Rats" - Dick Moore

Reviewed by Joanne Elsesser

"To pig or not to pig." That was the question after the Menger Hotel banned Dick Moore's program on "Hotel Cats and Rats". Dick protested that nobody would come if he billed his program as pigs.

So, once again, Dick regaled us with the continuing saga of Puck and his Pignacious Pig. He implored the audiences' help - everyone clapping their thighs for hoof beats, snorting by the men since 'they are the best snorters; and oinking and squealing by the ladies since they are .....

After a falling out between Puck and Pig, they go their separate ways and, in a tail akin to the 'Pigwick Papers,' we follow their individual travails through life. Many years later, when they unexpectedly meet again, they realize they were meant for each other. They reunite and live happily ever after.

Dick close the program by tearing off his shirt and modeling for us his pig t-shirt, further evidence of his world expertise in pig lore and all things pig!

"Visit to the Magic Lantern Castle" Jack Judson

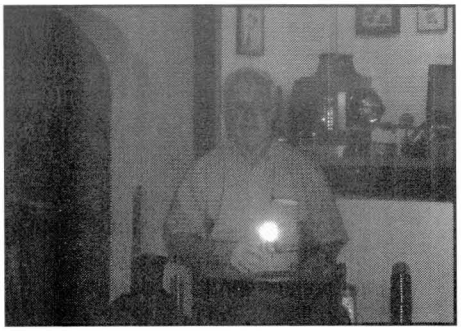
Reviewed by John & Betty Potter

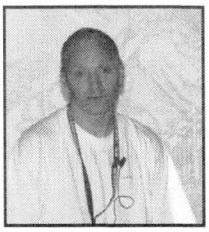
Wow!!

What a museum. It is overwhelming. There was just about anything you can think of in the way of magic lanterns, big ones, little ones, biunials, triunials, toy lanterns, etc. The displays are well done. It was easy to see and identify the items. Jack was a cordial host and allowed us to photograph any of the items.

The Magic Castle is not just a display of lanterns. The lanterns and other items are preserved according to museum standards. It is also a research institution on the magic lantern and other related subjects. The trip through the shop, library and the storage area was interesting. The warehouse had everything from 'A to Z', to allow him to fix what ever he wanted to.

For all of us who haven't seen lime light, Jack's lighting a piece of lime was spectacular.





"A Short History of Lighting" - Karl Link

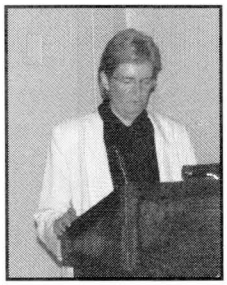
Reviewed by Don Curran

He (she) said, "Let there be light". Karl Link, a transplanted German national, now lives in Fairport, NY and delivered a great presentation on the subject of light. "Without light, the magic lantern could not exist." Karl traced the history of light from its first earth origination as fire.

Ancient history shows the earliest controlled use of light was using hanging baskets for burning wood. Later various cast iron floor stands served the same purpose. Karl projected both of these early sources with slides showing them. Torches followed, using certain birds and oily fish stuck on sticks as oily wicks, rush branches, and a slow but bright burning wood. Karl again showed slides demonstrating these sources. All were found in Europe as no similar uses of fire have been found in North America.

It wasn't until the 15th century that the use of oil lamps and candles began to be used. The wicks of candles had to be trimmed every 1/2 hour as they burned and the term was "snuffed". Maybe the term "up to snuff" is based on this fact. Tallow candles followed, made of sperm fat, animal fat, and paraffin.

Part two - bringing us up to date on lighting will be given by Karl at our 2006 convention.



"American Foreign Missions, Missionary Hymns and Magic Lantern Slides, 1880-1910" - Cheryl Boots

Reviewed by Dick Moore

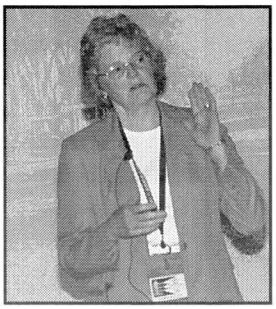
An extremely enlightening, well researched presentation reviewing the complex, yet effective intertwining of the work of American Foreign Missions, 19th century American culture, beliefs and attitudes, American literature, mission hymns, and the use of magic lantern slides.

Cheryl highlighted several key factors, the role of the missionaries in interpreting non-western culture, the important role of women in missionary work, and the conflict over the role of missionaries regarding "changing foreign cultures".

Reading key excerpts from Kate Douglas Wiggin's 'Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm', Cheryl effectively demonstrated how literature and missionary were at times successfully integrated and played off each other.

She pointed out how the increase in missionary work coincided in time with the increase in popularity and use of magic lantern hymn slides showing examples of the range of type of slides use from simple 'words only' slides, to copies of the actual music, to words with black and white pictures and finally to words with beautifully drawn and colored pictures. Of course including Beale hymn slides.

Her eloquent singing also highlighted the presentation, particularly closing with a beautiful performance of 'The Missionary Hymn' by Reginald Herber, more often know as 'From Greenlands Icy Mountains'. This clearly supported the power of music in increasing involvement.



"How Many American Magic Lantern Shows in 1895" - Debbie Borton

Reviewed by Margaret Bergh

"A Report and a Challenge" could have been a subtitle for Debbie Borton's program. The Bortons' interest in magic lantern showmanship has led them to delve into the history of that phenomenon in the USA in the late 19th century. Taking as her sample the town of Middletown CT in the year 1895, Debbie began to peruse the fine print of two competitive daily newspapers - the Middletown Penny Press and the Middletown Tribune - for any and every reference to any kind of magic lantern presentation. Signaled by phrases like "illustrated lecture", "illustrated with lantern slides," "stereopticon views", or "Mr. Marshall operated the stereopticon," these references appeared in advertisements, announcements, and reviews of performances. Time constraints at this moment have limited Debbie's newspaper research to the first three months of the year, January - March, 1895. Debbie added to the database for her survey, data pertaining to the types of slides and apparatus marketed to lecturers and show folk (predominantly male, according to Debbie's survey). These were enumerated in the 1895 catalog of the McIntosh Stereopticon Co., the Chicago supply house that could provide a variety of prepackaged "outfits" (e.g. magic lantern, screen, carrier, sets of views) available in a range of prices and designed to equip a lanternist with everything necessary for a successful exhibition.

The enumeration of slides in the McIntosh catalog showed 79% represented travel, science, or history subjects. In the catalog lists, 15% could be designated as "variety show" slides, 5% as religious ones and 1% were targeted for fraternal organizations.

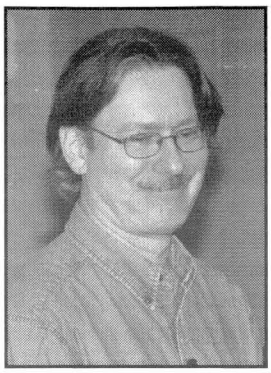
In the newspaper survey, Debbie tabulated more that one hundred references that boiled down to an estimated 34 magic lantern shows in the three-month span. Travel talks were by far the most common, followed by religious topics. (Here Debbie pointed out that the survey might possibly be skewed by two factors: (1) the religious data was taken from reports during the Lenten season, and (2) there was a policy that attracted travelogues as a means to 'bring the outside world in' to inmates of the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane that was located in Middletown.) There were also a smattering of educational programs, but -surprisingly - only two combination styles or what we'd call "variety" shows. Some numbers could not be determined by a survey of the newspapers, as, e.g., Sunday Schools and fraternal organizations would not have received coverage.

Venturing out on a limb, by extrapolation to a national scale over the course of the entire year, Debbie estimated that there may have been about 150,000 magic lantern shows, in the USA, that were put on by approximately 60,000 different people as presenters, in the year 1895.

Debbie intends to continue to cull the two newspapers covering the remainder of the year, April through December. The larger challenge is for the rest of us, as fellow students of the magic lantern and its culture, to research our local or selected newspapers, following Debbie's model to enhance our knowledge of the 'who, what, when, and where' of magic lantern usage in a given year (how about 1895?).

Such meticulous research is unquestionably a chore. It means poring over virtually every inch of the (microfilmed) page! - but Debbie found that carefully reading the old dailies has its personal rewards, too, by giving one a chance to learn about and appreciate what was going on in the day-to-day lives of the people in a community at a particular time in our history. For further information contact Debbie Borton by email:

DHBorton@comcast.net



"The Great Johnstown Flood of 1889" - Larry Rakow

Reviewed by Sharon Koch

Although he begged our indulgence, confessing that this was his first presentation of this program, Larry once again, captured his audience with drama and action, depicting the Johnstown flood. His commentary and slides took us back to the destruction of the Cambria Iron Works and the town, and the loss of 2,200 lives, due to shoddy maintenance of South Forks Dam, which collapsed on June 1, 1889. In less than 45 minutes, Lake Conemaugh behind the dam, was totally drained. Twenty million tons went down river at 40 mph, in a wall of debris 60 feet high.

Larry told of hero John Baker, who rode his horse to warn the town folks, heroine Hettie Ogle, who lost her life manning her post at the telegraph office, and Clara Barton's newly formed Red Cross distribution of food and supplies to the survivors.

One hundred years later, the Iron Works became the only American steel mill to be named a National Historical Landmark. Johnstown has recovered, but the lake is gone. People can still tour the site and the path of the flood.

Larry's presentation was enhanced by the dramatic intonations of his sonorous voice. The slides captured the speed and horror of the event. A very interesting show! Well done, Larry!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
By Sharon Koch

sharonkoch@prodigy.net

In this first message to you, I am honored to begin serving as president of our Society and relieved I didn't have to campaign all over the country to win your vote! I will do my best, with your help, to promote the purposes of this special organization as stated in our bylaws, to increase member communication and education, and find new ways to pique interest in and share the knowledge of the Magic Lantern with those who are not yet members. With the exceptional editors of the *Gazette*, Bob and Sue Hall, with tireless assistance from Larry Cederblom, and Terry Borton's recent contributions toward improving our website, we have the tools to accomplish those goals.

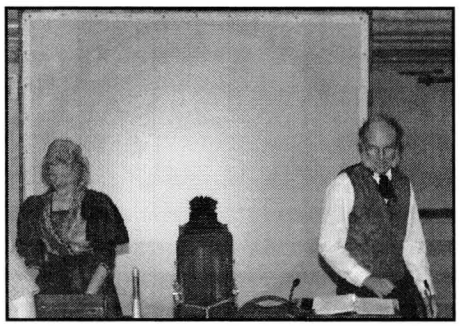
Our thanks to a wonderful leader, Ralph Shape, our retiring president, who has been diligent and attentive to the promotion of the Society since the turn of this new century, and to Homer Peabody, our past vice president whose spirit has sustained us for the past EIGHT years. Now, that's dedication!

I look forward to serving this term with Larry Rakow, Vice President, and Dick Moore, as Secretary/Treasurer. This team is already working hard and I thank you both in advance for your help and hours of work. You did know that was going to happen, didn't you?

Jack Judson (with able assistant and wonderful hostess, Linde) was a master of organization for the San Antonio convention. From the programs, our Alamo panoramic group photo, the elegant Menger Hotel, the magical trip to his Castle, sales tables and auction (thank you Larry Rakow and Dick Balzer), the only thing missing was more time. You did an excellent job.

Something totally unexpected happened at the business meeting. We had FOUR offers to host the 2006 convention. You will have to read the meeting notes and articles in the following pages to learn the outcome. I was gratified to hear excitement and energy from many members during the discussion regarding the promotion and growth of our Society. New committees are already being formed. Officers and members are committed to trying new ideas, such as bringing in scholars and research of related topics, promoting student involvement with a new $5.00 student member dues category, creating a Society brochure, and enhancing the Web site, to name a few. Read all about it! We welcome your ideas. Please email your officers.

May you share the magic of the lantern.



The Victorian Halloween Show" - Terry Borton, Debbie Borton, Nancy Stewart

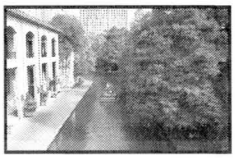
Reviewed by Karl Link

The Halloween s how by Terry, Debbie and Nancy was M-A-R-V-E-L-O-U-S!!

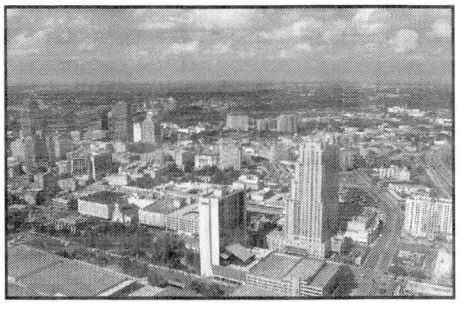
We may have seen magnificent slides of great splendor, listened to fascinating tales of famous chiefs and mysterious machines, and in our increasing wonder and surprise, thought of ourselves as having been lucky indeed. But when the lights go out and the magic of the American Magic Lantern Theatre reaches out, you are swept up and away instantly. Transfixed you stand, deliciously scared by exquisite monsters, lovingly frightened by characters of odd shape or form, by images and pictures that again and again are opening, widening your eyes, making you see with a new sense of imagination, an entirely different world. Charmed and open eyed you faintly feel how you are being musically lifted ever so softly beyond the boundaries and limitations of your usual self into a wondrous world where new spheres open allowing you to enter and experience a truly magical world, a world where life is lived, where human emotions stir, advance, move, and play.

All is a real world, more real than you normally seem able to comprehend. Particular highlights included Bridget's Dream and the Raven. And did we love it! Need we say it? We always do. If you now feel like you missed out, you are absolutely right. Especially since Nancy had made sure that for this special occasion a threesome of obviously well trained musical frogs provided a dash of exotic glamour.

Thoughts on a Visit to San Antonio



Reviewed by Sue Frandsen



The rich heritage of this beautiful city is what I first expected to experience. True, the Alamo and the surrounding missions have incredible history; but I was pleasantly surprised by the many things that aroused my senses. The sight of the beautiful historical buildings, the colorful markets and the proudly worn cowboy hats; the aromas of the many restaurants that lined the Riverwalk, the smell of stale cigar smoke from perhaps renown visitors of the past. I learned to appreciate the intense flavor of chilies, barbeques, and, of course, sweet pralines. I loved the upbeat sound of mariachi bands, the lapping of the river along the walk, and the hum of the tourist boats cruising the river. The warm humid air and the equally warm smiles will be unforgettable, but I've also learned about the heartfelt kindness of the people of San Antonio, a city for the senses.

Back Row Sharon Koch, Mike Koch, Cheryl Boots, Bruce Weston, Dick Moore, Sara Dendas, Tom Rall, Harry Elsesser, Joanne Elsesser, Janet Foster, Susan Rakow, Larry Rakow, Tressa Friend, Pat Friend, Dorothy Bromage, Georgia Windish, Susan Frandsen, Henk Kranenburg, Robert Te Pas, Karl Link, Betty Peabody, Terry Borton, Randy Haberkamp, Jere Guldin, Bob Yates, Dick Wood

Front Row Judie Shape, Ralph Shape, E.A. Basse, Jack Judson, Linde Judson, Margaret Bergh, David Francis, Bob Doran, Larry Cederblom, Betty Potter, John Potter, Nancy Stewart, Floyd Hagedorn, Lenna Hagedorn, Debbie Borton, Morton Schindel, Kent Wells, Mark Nonestied, Wendy Gronbeck, Bruce Gronbeck, Steve Barnes, Mike Curran, Don Curran, Diane Yates, Homer Peabody, Bob Sieberg

Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada
October 29-31, 2004 Convention—San Antonio, Texas

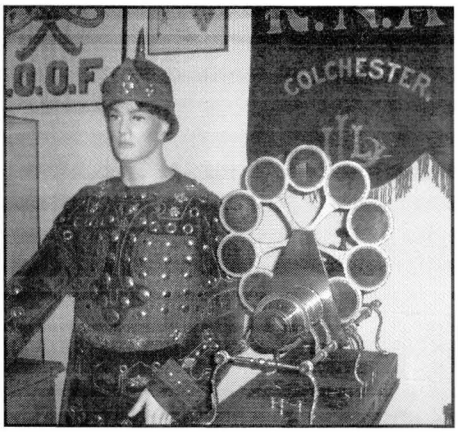
Thanks to the photographers
that made this issue a visual treat
Thomas D. Bleich
Larry Cederblom
Dick Moore
John Potter

"The Music in the Shows of the American Magic Lantern Theater" - Nancy Stewart

Reviewed by Larry Cederblom

What a delight! This energetic, enthusiastic and talented presenter gave the audience material to think about when watching magic lantern shows. You can appreciate the subtle nuances with the addition of live music added to a show.

Use of underscoring to match the situation and mood of the presentation greatly adds to the feeling the audience has about the show. Combining the emotion of the projected image and the sound of the accompanying music adds to the experience. Again another great presentation by the American Magic Lantern Theater performers.



MAGIC LANTERN CONVENTION – SAN ANTONIO

Business Meeting Minutes October 31, 2004

President Ralph Shape called the meeting to order at 9:10am on the last day of a great convention. He recognized the society members present who had been former officers/ volunteers, and remembered the members who have passed away since our last convention. He also reported on the outcome of Vice President Homer Peabody's exhaustive research into changing our bylaws to enable a different way of balloting for new society officers. The opinion was to keep the bylaw the same, so we will continue to have ballots sent via mail to the entire membership. Minutes were read and approved. Treasurer's report: without complete information on convention costs, the balance was $7,981.99.

WEBSITE – continues to be viewed. Some new members have joined as a result of finding the site. Don Curran suggested that eBay sellers might include the fact that the seller is a member of the Magic Lantern Society. It builds credibility. It is also possible to include a link to the society webpage in the "About Me" category.

SLIDE READING CATALOG – Rick Martyna has offered to do a slide reading catalog for members. Members can contribute a reading to the library or find one they need.
Terry Borton commented that the British Society also has a large library of readings. Don Curran requested that Rick's email address be placed in the Gazette

BRITISH CONVENTION – The British Society International Convention will be held April 22-24, 2005, in Birmingham, England.

PUBLICATIONS – Terry Borton and Jack Judson are moving along with the development of their books. Erkki Huhtamo is also writing the *History of Moving Panorama,* which will discuss some of the conflicts occurring between magic lantern shows and moving panoramas, and is editing a new series for the University of California Press. Debbie Borton suggested that members follow up her research of 1895 lantern shows in Middletown, Ct, with an attempt to do the same for their own towns or areas. Our wonderful jester, Homer Peabody announced that he is writing the *History of the Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group*, and it is free if you are eligible!

SOCIETY GROWTH -Terry Borton introduced the subject of how to increase society membership. He stated that we represent an interest group in a field of history that is not known by the general public, and fears that the interest and knowledge will die if the society does not take steps to "get the word out". He made the following suggestions:

1. The website is visually unappealing. We need to upgrade and keep current information flowing to create and sustain interest.

2. Sellers on eBay can mention that they are members of the society, send society information to buyers, and for instance, ask Tom Rall to include a brochure with his slide sales.

3. Each of us could bring a non-member to the next convention.

4. We need to educate and include cinema scholars by sponsoring seminars at the Magic Lantern Castle. These could include an evening soiree with slide shows/presentations.

5. Set up a foundation for graduate students to do research. For instance, a foundation of $1000 could be set up, with an award of 4 grants per year.

A long discussion followed, with an outpouring of ideas. Jack Judson stated that he has several thousand people come through the Castle annually. He would be happy to host seminars and give an endowment. Rick Altman was mentioned as a person of interest in this subject. Don Curran said that it wouldn't be difficult to find students who could be interested. A brochure might be sent to Liberal Arts students near members' homes.. Kent Wells suggested that we also draw in historians of science. The History of Science Society has a quarterly journal, *ISIS*, that might do a review of any technical magic lantern books. A publisher of society member's book could send a review of the book to them.

Randy Haberkamp noted that our society budget is limited, and we should focus on one or two items and do them well. He felt that the website should be a priority. Dick Balzer said that the focus should be limited to upgrading the website, doing seminars or forums (Erkki Huhtamo and David Francis were mentioned), getting our publicity included on eBay, and printing a one page brochure on the society. Dick Moore noted that any related organization would most likely give us free publicity. He also felt that we could put on more shows or presentations at nearby colleges. John Potter added that high schools could also be good locations for programs/presentations.

RESULTS – Mike Koch mentioned that we could ask Dorothy Easterday to help with website upgrade. Erkki volunteered to get his students involved in the upgrade. Dick Wood volunteered to set up an auction of Society memberships on eBay. He purchased a subscription to *Alaska Magazine* that way. We should get our society information on WIKIPEDIA, a free-content online encyclopedia, in many languages. The general membership agreed to do a pamphlet and website enhancement. Larry Cederblom volunteered to assemble a one page flyer that members could reproduce, and hand out. He would make this available via email or hard copy. It was also suggested that the pamphlet be placed on the website. Mike Koch made a motion that we establish a new membership fee of $5 for students. Motion carried. Cheryl Boots felt that we should put the newsletter on the website. Ralph suggested we have a monthly update and FAQ section on the site. Dick Balzer moved to form a committee on the scholar seminars. The following members volunteered to be on the committee: Jack Judson, Erkki Huhtamo, David Francis, Cheryl Boots, Geri Snider, Terry Borton, and Randy Haberkamp.

AWARDS – The ever youthful Betty Peabody read meaningful memories of the origin of the Red Cabbage Award, and amidst many pig jokes, Dick Moore was presented the award for his humorous and entertaining Pig Sequel. Larry Rakow, with great applause, was given the Joe Koch Historical Award for his dramatic program on the Johnstown Flood of 1889. An Honorary Life Membership was awarded in absentia to Bob Bishop, designated the "Grandfather of the Magic Lantern Society of the U. S. and Canada", and Jack Judson also received an Honorary Life Membership for his years of dedication to the preservation of the lantern and service to the Society.

NEW OFFICERS – Ralph announced the results of the election: Sharon Koch, President, Larry Rakow, Vice President, and Dick Moore, Secretary/Treasurer. Sharon then took over the gavel and she and Jack Judson presented retiring President, Ralph Shape, a plaque and Certificate acknowledging him as President Par Excellence, signed by all members present at the convention.

NEXT CONVENTION – For the first time in the history of the Society, four locations were presented by potential hosts for the 2006 convention!

1. Boston, hosted by Cheryl Books and Dorothy Bromage
2. Washington DC, hosted by Tom Rall and David Francis
3. Seattle, hosted by the Northwest Group
4. Revelstoke, hosted by David, Lesley and Michael Evans

Karl Link reminded the members that we had agreed in 2002 to follow a geographic pattern of East, Mid Country, and West. With respect to the location of Revelstoke, Dick Wood pointed out that there could be considerable customs difficulties taking Lantern materials to and from Canada, which would seriously complicate buying/selling items at sales tables and auction. It was moved by Dick Balzer that the officers review the proposals and report their conclusions to the membership. Motion carried.

It was also suggested that the officers consider the time of year for the convention. The discussion was that summer months were generally better for most members.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion carried

The 2004 Hon. Damer E. Waddington Red Cabbage Award

As written and read at the convention by Betty Peabody

The Hon. D. E. W. Red Cabbage Award is particularly poignant to Homer and me because it originated in San Diego when the Shapes, Currans, and the Peabodys co-chaired this convention in 1996.

The preparations were unbelievably smooth - until we began getting middle of the night faxed requests from Damer on the Isle of Jersey for many unusual items critical to his program presentation.

Damer possesses all things wonderful, the precise mind of an engineer, a polite if somewhat demanding manner, and the typically British dry sense of humor. So of course, the six of us plus our daughter scurried to meet his every demand (that is request.) These ranged from an acetylene tank - or was that for Jack Judson's lime light (which required special dispensation from the fire marshal and hotel management), to pond water (stagnant), to chemicals, to - a red cabbage which would color the water (food coloring would not do) between his two slides to create a mini aquarium for the dancing water fleas which we also had to procure from a lab, - all serious stuff.

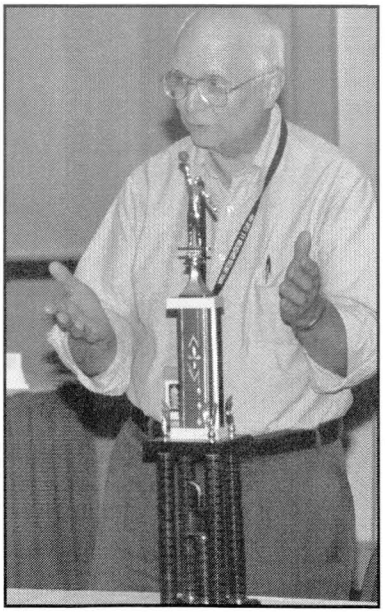
My vague recollection is that the whole experiment failed and the joke was on us - but the memory (and the cabbage) lingered on until we sent it back to the Isle of Jersey with Damer as his award.

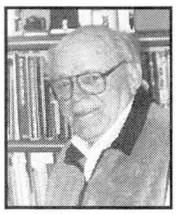
The never incredibly boring, but ever imaginative Sue and Bob Hall found a Terribly Tacky Trophy, used Sue's red nail lacquer to paint the cabbage red and the perpetual award was born. It has enjoyed residing in the homes of Damer, Ralph Shape and Larry Rakow. Larry, as you heard yesterday, is reluctantly relinquishing the magically metamorphosed, now beautifully ornamental official Magic Lantern Trophy to his successor.

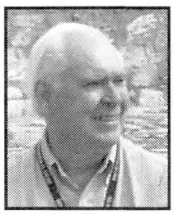
In spite of the fact that Larry blamed - recognized - John Davidson for the trophy transformation, we have it on good authority that even in its earlier "cruddy condition", it enjoyed a place of honor in the Rakow's dining room and provided a perfect prop for Professor Optix tall tales. We are also aware that Susan has already filled the gaping hole left by the removal of the terrific trophy-perhaps with photos of terrific new grandson Benjamin.

Larry, thank you for the respect and tender loving care you have shown this special award - Damer will appreciate the wonderful humor it imparts. Now on to the results of the 2004 election!

The membership vote showed there were many runners-up for this trophy. However our fond affection for pigs provided a clear winner. As a continuing tribute to Damer, we are pleased and proud to present the Honorable Damer Waddington Red Cabbage Award to Dick Moore. Damer will be delighted that you will carry on his grand tradition.







NEW LIFE MEMBERS ARE NAMED

By Ralph Shape

Another exciting event took place at the convention in San Antonio. The Society's by-laws state under Part III. Membership: "Such individual persons who deserve special recognition by virtue of long service, outstanding contribution or extraordinary action in the field of collection, publication or who have brought significant attention to the Magic Lantern or related material and upon unanimous recommendation of the then sitting officers of the Society shall be termed Honorary Life Members for life."

In accordance with those by-laws, the outgoing officers of the Society selected two Honorary Life Members and the membership, through their election ballot remarks, confirmed those selections.

The "grandfather" of the Society, "The Old Projectionist", Bob Bishop, has fulfilled all the qualifications to be a Life Member. He has entertained and educated thousands with his shows and has brought significant attention to the Magic Lantern.

The Magic Lantern Castle Museum curator Jack Judson has also, fulfilled all the qualifications to be a Life Member. His collection and library is the number one source in the world for research, teaching, and demonstrating the history of the magic lantern. His sharing of information has exposed the world of magic lanterns to thousands and encouraged the preservation of history.

Certificates certifying Bob Bishop and Jack Judson as Honorary Life Members of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada were presented during the business meeting in San Antonio.

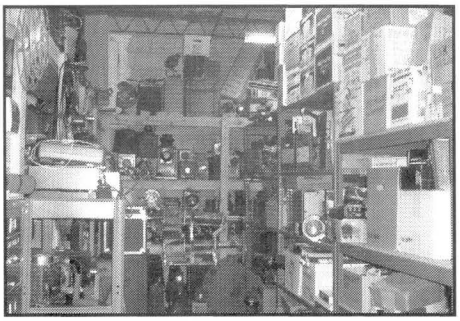
NEW CONVENTION PRESENTATION AWARD

By Terry Borton

The 2006 Society Convention will be the first time that The Leora Wood Wells Research Award will be presented to a member who displays "the convention's best original scholarship on the magic lantern or related issues", to quote Terry Borton, who proposed the award. The society's officers are in agreement with Terry's suggestion, and acknowledge the need for such an honor, and Dr. Kentwood Wells, Leora's son and a member of the society, feels that his mother, who passed away one year ago, would have appreciated the honor.

For those who never had the privilege of knowing her, Leora Wood Wells was a founding member and the Society's first Bulletin editor, from April, 1979 to October, 1982. She began her professional writing career in the late 1950's as a speech writer for the Chief of the United States Children's Bureau in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington DC. In the 70's and 80's, she collaborated with her husband, W. Willeroy Wells, on the development of several major historical museums, doing research and writing exhibit copy and film scripts for the Siege Museum in Petersburg, VA and the Scopes Trial Museum in Dayton, Tennessee, and helped the Billings Farm Museum in Woodstock, Vermont. Kent gave a wonderful presentation in San Antonio, illustrating with slides, the family's summer outings in search of magic lanterns and slides in various states.

Terry stated that Leora was the "first genuine scholar in the Society, and a pioneer in the field", and it is with a great deal of respect that we recognize and honor her with this award.



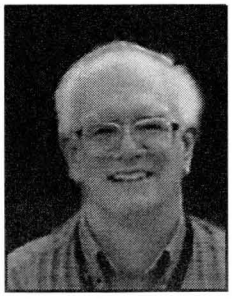
2004 Magic Lantern Auction Results

San Antonio, TX

1	Ceramic Santa Tile...Beale	5.00
2	18th or 19th Century Bronze Peep Show Statue	900.00
3	Lever Slide...Harlequin With Goose	30.00
4	Movable Monkey Acrobat Silhouette Slide	350.00
5	Brass Bound Changing Faces Plunger Slide...Newton	750.00
6	Movable British Lion Silhouette Slide	175.00
7	Lantern Magique Post Card	30.00
8	Lantern Magique Card	25.00
9	18th Century Peepshow Engraving	nb
10	Hold to the Light Cathedral Transformation	nb
11	GW Color Transformation...Hermit's Cave	nb
12	20th Century Colored Magic Lantern Etching	nb
13	Southward Fair Peepshow Engraving and Reading	30.00
14	18th Century Encyclopedia Engraving...Optics	25.00
15	19th Century Encyclopedia Engraving...Magic Lanterns	35.00
16	Miscellaneous Iron Magic Lantern Pieces and Parts	40.00
17	Stoddard's Lectures 1898 (10 vols.) plus 1897 (6 vols.)	20.00
18	5 Color Toy Slides...Ships	nb
19	3 Toy Slides...B&w Photos	10.00
20	7 Toy Slides...B&w Photos	nb
21	8 Color Toy Slides...Circus	nb
22	8 Miscellaneous Color Toy Slides	nb
23	8 Color Toy Slides...Buildings	nb
24	12 Miscellaneous b&w Toy Slides	25.00
25	Babes in the Woods Marionette Poster	20.00
26	Orange Magic Lantern Poster	10.00
27	Yellow Magic Lantern Poster	10.00
28	Prof. Teel Magic Lantern Poster...Johnstown Flood	40.00
29	Prof. Teel Magic Lantern Poster...War Scenes	25.00
30	2 Beale Color Religious Slides...Heaven	70.00
31	Star of Bethlehem Dissolve Set	100.00
32	Magic Lantern Society 2004 Convention Slide	40.00
33	Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight...12 Slides/Complete Set	300.00
34	20 Keystone Map Slides	25.00
35	20 Biological Fungi Slides	25.00
36	28 Fire Prevention Slides	55.00
37	Brenkert Biunial Lantern Missing One Lens	200.00
38	Electrified Lantern With McAllister Lens	50.00
39	Dissolve Set...Statuary	9.00
40	2 Mechanical Slides in Need of Repair	45.00
41	Stein Song/Drink to Maine...Complete Set/12 Slides	30.00
42	Old Black Joe...7 Song Slides With Lyrics	45.00
43	Partial Song Set...Way Down in Indiana...7 Slides	25.00
44	Statue of Liberty Lantern Slide Art Piece	5.00
45	Couple on Front Porch Lantern Slide Art Piece	5.00
46	3 Color Religious Wood-Mounted Slides	20.00
47	2 b&w Slides...US Treasury and Redwoods	10.00
48	Cinderella Magic Wand Book...3d With Glasses	20.00

49	Book...Amazing 3-D/Lacking Glasses	20.00
50	Odd Fellows Fraternal Set/Many by Beale...46 Slides	160.00
51	6 Wooden Slide Frames	70.00
52	Cinematograph Pencil Sharpener	10.00
53	Cinematograph with Burner and Film	40.00
54	4 European Hand-Painted Slides...Odd Format	10.00
55	Major General Wood Temperance Slide	7.00
56	"Doing His K.P." Dog Slide	35.00
57	5 Live Model Song Slides	45.00
58	4 Live Model Song Slides	55.00
59	"Richard is Himself Again" Slide	10.00
60	6 Photographic Johnstown Flood Slides	85.00
61	US Savings Bond Advert Slide	18.00
62	6 Religious Dissolve Slides	65.00
63	US Capitol With WWI Troops Color Slide	35.00
64	Milk and Cream Wagon Color Photographic Slide	25.00
65	US Capitol With Lightening Color Slide	35.00
66	Tourists With Large Camera Photographic b&w Slide	30.00
67	Hopi Social Dance Photographic Color Slide	25.00
68	Men in Drag...Color Burlesque Show Slide	40.00
69	Book...The Magic Lantern: How Movies Got to Move	25.00
70	The Book of the Lantern (Reprint)	70.00
71	Magic Shadows...Quigley	55.00
72	To Catch a Sunbeam...1st ed. In dj with letter from author	40.00
73	Movement in Two Dimensions...1st ed. In dj	60.00
74	Smithsonian Magazine...March, 1982...Ripley Collection	6.00
75	Smithsonian Magazine...October, 1987...Jack Naylor	10.00

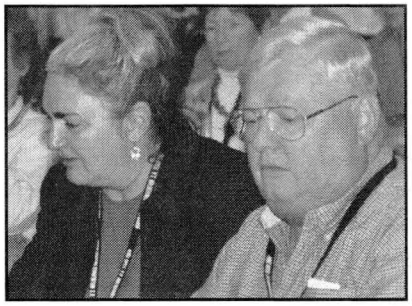
Total to Society $850.00



"Collecting Magic Lanterns in the Golden Age 1960-1980" - Kentwood Wells

Reviewed by Jere Guldin

Instead of addressing the subject of lantern collecting in general, as the title seems to imply, Kentwood Wells' presentation focused specifically upon the acquisitions of himself and his family during the period. (And actually, the "golden age" of collecting lanterns for the Wells' was mostly between 1960 and 1965, when they acquired the bulk of their collections.) Thanks to the diligent journal kept by his mother, a former editor of the 'Gazette', Kent was able to provide a precise account of the time and place of acquisition of many of the eighty lanterns in their collection. The first of these was a ten-dollar purchase of a lantern and slides on a 1960 trip to Maine that hooked most - but not all! - of the Wells' on magic lanterns, with the highlight being the peak year of 1962, when their vacation netted them a total of eighteen lanterns. Accompanying slides (35mm, not glass) depicted all of the lanterns described, as well as many of the sites at which they were acquired.



"Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery from a Different Perspective" - Sharon & Mike Koch

Reviewed by Floyd Hagedorn

A bicentennial tribute to the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1803-1806 was presented, magic lantern fashion, by Sharon and Mike Koch, son and daughter-in-law of the Magic Lantern Society founders, Joe and Alice Koch.

Joe had accumulated many advertising and Indian slides in his lifetime. The Shoshone Indian tribe, whom Lewis and Clark befriended, was one of Joe's favorites.

Lewis and Clark were the first contact the Shoshone had with white men. They furnished guides and supplies. A spirit of peace and cooperation reigned supreme. Shoshone chiefs visited President Jefferson in Washington, DC but what happened later is another story.

The program was a fitting tribute commemorating the peace and cooperation exhibited by the Shoshone toward Lewis and Clark and a special honor to Joe Koch's memory.

Visit to the Magic Lantern Castle Museum

By Janet Leigh Foster

The coach trip from the Menger Hotel to the Magic Lantern Castle was without incident. Everyone assembled on time, and boarded in an orderly manner. Conversation during the journey was subdued yet convivial; the group abstained from animal noises, high-pitched shrieks, and thigh slapping. After a short ride, the coach pulled up in front of a castle with turrets, flags flying on top, and a front door that resembled a drawbridge. An Aladdin inspired carpet marked the path to the entrance, which was guarded by a pair of winged lions.

At the appointed hour, the door to the castle opened. As the visitors filed in, they were welcomed by Jack Judson, and given a museum catalogue.

Under the spell cast by a multitude of gleaming magic lanterns in mint condition, the plethora of magic lanterns on display, replete with examples of every conceivable tool for creating phantasmagoria, there was in impressive spread of food. Hosts Jack and Linde Judson had seemingly acquired a magic porridge pot and adapted it to produce an ever-replenishing banquet that catered to every palate. The offerings included silver platters of Swedish meatballs swimming in gravy; racks of glistening prawns with red sauce for dipping; miniature peppers stuffed with proscuitto; great wheels of cheese; and bite sized cream puffs that became and instant legend.

After visitors had some time to graze, and to recover from the initial impact of the collection, Jack called the group to order. Standing before a table laden with combustible material, a limelight burner, and a lamp, he began his address by humbly defining the role of conservators of the magic lantern: "We are merely custodians, for now, of equipment for the next generation. It's incumbent upon us to preserve it. Being a custodian means that you take care of it as best you can." He reiterated his pledge to conduct, promote, and support research in the field, and then directed viewer's attention to the combustible materials on the table, which served as his podium.

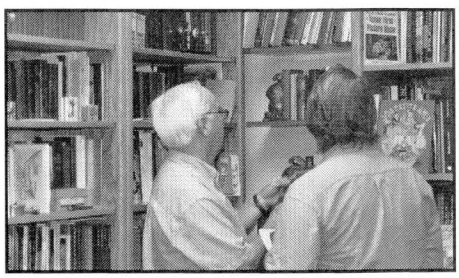
Jack spoke about fire and lanterns in the days before electric lights, and recalled a time when children were charged with the task of cleaning the household lanterns, to be rewarded at dusk by the privilege of lighting them. Jack showed the assemblage a limelight burning system, in preparation for a demonstration of its functionality. After a brief explanation of limelight and ether, he reached into the glass case behind him and extracted a small box of lime cylinders. He removed one from the box and placed it in the chamber of the lantern. Then, with a conjurer's twinkle in his eye, he lit the lamp and said, "It's nice to see you in the limelight!"

The resultant explosion took the form of a boisterous round of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow!"

Before the crowd dispersed, Jack announced that he would conduct ten people at a time on a tour of the castle library, workshop, and storeroom. Members exercised the utmost decorum, and there was no stampede.

Whilst some were engrossed in their tour of the museum's inner sanctum, the rest lolled in the main gallery, exchanging ideas, and taking advantage of the rare opportunity to discuss any aspect of the magic lantern and be able to point to an example. In that respect the visit to the Magic Lantern Castle took on the atmosphere of a 19th century salon in someone's home, and was better than a visit to a museum. Ordinary curators often lack the obsession and passion of a private collector like Jack Judson, whose knowledge and love of the magic lantern genre spreads ethereally throughout his castle, and is palpable to all who enter.

For a detailed description of the Magic Lantern Castle Collection, please see:
Huhtamo, Erkki "Deep in the Heart of Magic Lantern Country", The Magic Lantern Gazette, Fall 2001.



Bits and Pieces

1 To submit readings to the Society Slide Reading Library contact Rick Martyna, 401 Wyllis St., Oil City, PA 16301, inericks@csonline.net. For a list of readings in the library, please see last issue.

2 Authentic binding strips for rebinding slides are available from Tom Rall, The Flea Market at Eastern Market, 1101 N Kentucky St., Arlington, VA 22205 phone (703) 534-7612, fax (703) 534-0285 marketflea@aol.com

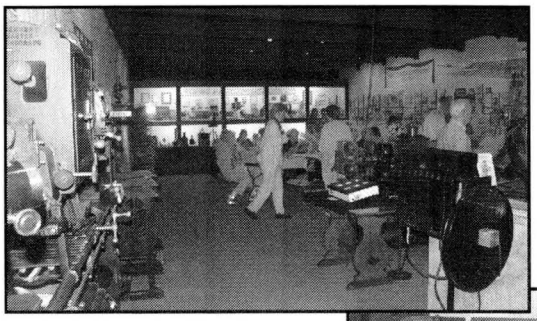
The strips are precut, creased for proper fit, and gummed. $15 for enough for 100 American slides, $3\frac{1}{4}$ X4" slides. $10 for a 50-slide supply.

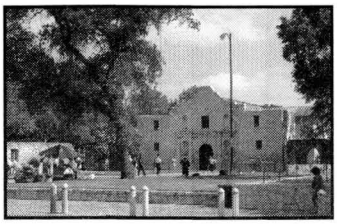
He sells recycled cover glass, pre-cleaned, for $9 a dozen, $15 for two dozen. Whole slides, clean yourself, are 75 cents each. These are inventory rejects but useable slides that include image glass, mask, and cover glass—usually still taped and needing to be taken apart.

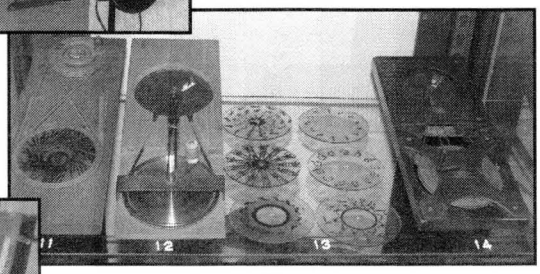
Another item in stock for the convention and always available by special order are Magic Lantern polo shirts, which are very popular with the society in Britain. There are two embroidery designs and a range of color and sizes, $35 plus postage.

Also in stock are 2-mil plastic sleeves made to order to fit both the British and American slide formats. These provide excellent storage and protection against fingerprints and dust. $5 per 100.

3 In the last Gazette the editors failed to include the name of Damer Waddinton as the member who submitted the article on Small American Lanters.



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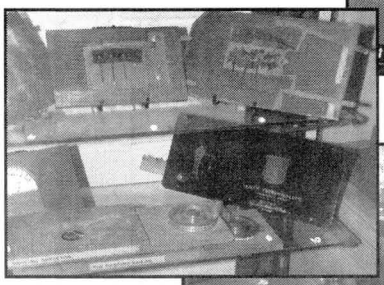

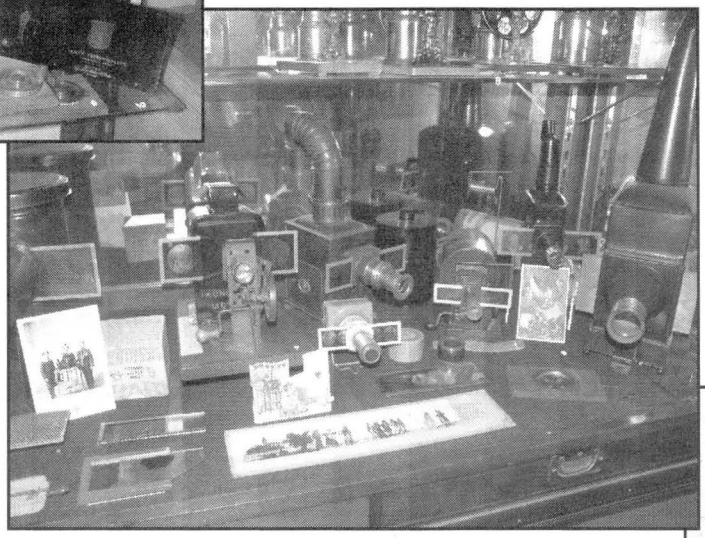

IDEAL
PHOTO PRINTS
THIN COVER GLASS
ONE
Lantern Slide Cut-out Set
12
11
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